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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/521,787	01/21/2005	Masahiro Arinaga	403309/SOGA	1958
23548	7590	09/06/2007	EXAMINER	
LEYDIG VOIT & MAYER, LTD			NGUYEN, NINH H	
700 THIRTEENTH ST. NW				
SUITE 300			ART UNIT	
WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3960			PAPER NUMBER	
			3745	
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			09/06/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10/521,787	ARINAGA ET AL.	
Examiner Ninh H. Nguyen	Art Unit 3745	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,3-7 and 9-16 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 14-16 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3,5-7 and 9-13 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 January 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>06/28/07</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. In the amendment dated 28 June 2007, Applicant broadens the claims by eliminating the limitation “a case surrounding the impeller” in independent claims 1 and 4. Applicant further amends claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 2. Applicant also amends claim 4 to include the limitation of each blade has a blade tip extend beyond the bell mouth in the direction parallel to the rotational direction toward the bell mouth.
2. Applicant's arguments with respect to amended claims 1 and 4 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the patent JP 2002-22210A.

The patent JP 2002-22210A discloses a fan (Fig. 2) comprising an impeller having an outer diameter, rotating about a rotational axis, and including a plurality of blades 8, the blades 8 being mounted at circumferential intervals to an outer peripheral surface of a boss 5 of the impeller; a bell mouth 14 having an opening with an inner diameter, the bell mouth being

generally coaxial with the impeller and cylindrically constricted to guide gas to the impeller, wherein the inner diameter of the opening of the bell mouth is smaller than the outer diameter of the impeller (Fig. 2), and a peripheral portion of each blade has a tip, and part of each tip is disposed directly opposite the bell mouth and extends beyond the opening of the bell mouth along a direction parallel to the rotational axis of the impeller toward the bell mouth.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scoates et al.

Scoates discloses a fan comprising an impeller having an outer diameter and a plurality of axial flow blades, the axial flow blades being mounted at circumferential intervals on an outer peripheral surface of a boss; and a bell mouth having an opening with an inner diameter, the bell mouth being generally coaxial with the impeller and cylindrically constricted to guide gas to the impeller, wherein the inner diameter of the impeller is about 103% of the diameter of the bell mouth, in other words the diameter of the bell mouth is about 0.97% the diameter of the impeller.

However, Scoates does not disclose the diameter of the bell mouth is in a range from 50% to 85% of the outer diameter of the impeller as claimed.

Since the ratio of the diameter of the bell mouth is about 0.97% the diameter of the impeller improves the efficiency of the impeller while avoiding blade tip losses (col. 2, lines 22-

32). Therefore the ratio of the inner diameter of the bell mouth and the diameter of the impeller is considered a result effective variable.

Since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the fan of Scoates with the diameter of the bell mouth is in a range from 50% to 85% of the outer diameter of the impeller to improve efficiency of the fan. In re Boesch, 617 F. 2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 14-16 are allowed.
8. Claims 3, 5-7, and 9-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment, broadening claims 1 and 4 by eliminating the limitation "a case surrounding the impeller", necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

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the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Ninh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4823. The examiner can be normally reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Look, can be reached at (571) 272-4820. The fax number for this group is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, please go to <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov> or contact the Electronic Business center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



NINH H. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Nhn
September 4, 2007